



## Congressman Greg Walden

Remarks before the House of Representatives

January 24, 2007

# LAKE COUNTY, OR

THE IMPACT OF CONGRESS'S FAILURE TO ACT ON THE  
SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

Mr. Speaker. The failure of Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act amounts to a breach of faith to more than 600 forested counties across America.

For rural Lake County, Oregon – no stranger to economic challenges – this means that 93% of the county's road budget has vanished. With 709 miles of road to maintain during rugged winters, basic maintenance and sure passage for school buses and emergency vehicles is crippled.

County Commissioner Brad Winters says, "Without these dollars, the destruction of our roads through lack of repair will be inevitable. We will be back to dirt."

Failure to reauthorize delivers a blow to our schools too.

School District Superintendent Judy Graham puts it this way: "Our past challenges have made it difficult to offer even limited services. Losing county payments funding will devastate the environment our children rely on to learn and grow."

My colleagues, Congress must pass HR 17 and keep the Federal Government's promise to timbered communities. Time is running out for them.